

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4542
ANSWERED ON:22.05.2006
ENTRY OF GM OILSEEDS
Rawale Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering to import Genetically Modified (GM) oilseeds to meet the domestic demand of edible oil;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether doubts have been raised by some experts and Non-Governmental Organizations over the entry of GM foods in the country, and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto;

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a & b) The Govt has so far not permitted the import of genetically modified GM oilseeds to meet the domestic demand of edible oil.

(c & d) Yes Sir, Some Non-Government Organizations have expressed apprehensions about the entry of GM foods. Prior approval of the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) is necessary for any import of genetically modified oilseeds as per the provisions of rule 11 Rules 1989. Further this has also been included in the notification dated 4.5.2006 of Director General of Foreign Trade accordingly to which prior approval of Genetic Engineering Approval Committee and declaration at the port of entry is mandatory.